

MONTANA STATE AFL-CIO



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Home of the Montana Labor Movement

May 25, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS OF AT&T INC. AND DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG FOR CONSENT TO ASSIGN OR TRANSFER CONTROL OF LICENSES AND AUTHORIZATIONS; (WT PROCEEDING - No. 11-65).

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing you today to express support for the AT&T merger with T-Mobile USA. I urge your support as well.

When considering a position on this acquisition, the MT AFL-CIO looked at whether it would be good for workers, customers, and the country as a whole. In this merger, we find winning outcomes for all three considerations.

AT&T workers are the only employees of a wireless company in the U.S. that have a voice on the job. We believe the good labor-management environment at AT&T will be beneficial for T-Mobile's workers. The company takes a unionneutral stance in the collective bargaining decisions of its workers.

This move will be good for consumers as well. Nearly 100 million Americans don't have broadband service at home. In today's world, it's hard to imagine getting by without an internet connection. Wireless access makes sense in many areas where it's costly and difficult to build wired networks. AT&T has committed to extending its broadband wireless service to more than 97% of Americans as a result of this merger, which will make Montana more competitive, stimulate the economy and create new jobs.

We understand that the Federal Communications Commission will look closely at this merger. When you do, please keep in mind that your support will bring T-Mobile workers into a company with a cooperative work environment, while helping to bridge the digital gap that puts many workers and consumers at a disadvantage.

Thank you for your time

Al Ekblad, Executive Secretary

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell

Al Ekblad **Executive Secretary** International Union of Operating Engineers 400

> Jacquie Helt President

Service Employees International Union-Healthcare 775 NW

> Quint Nyman Vice President-Treasurer

Laborers International Union of North America 1686

> Fran Marceau District 1

United Transportation Union LO29

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> John Forkan District 3

United Association of Plumbers & Pipe Fitters 41

> Doug Neil District 4

International Association of Fire Fighters 8

> Kim Rickard District 5

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> Ed Logan District 6

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